

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision forcing their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election demonstrates dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves for free, and is legally obligated to serve the public interest. But when large companies like Sinclair control these public airwaves, the public ends up getting only what's good for Big Media instead of what's good for the public.

Instead of substantive in-depth reports about the issues that matter in this upcoming election, we get biased censorship and cheap propaganda (CBS' 60 Minutes won't air their story about Bush's reliance on a forged document about Iraq and uranium, the Superbowl network won't air a commercial that's too "political", and now Sinclair rams this "documentary slurring John Kerry down our collective throats). Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.